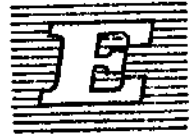


INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



Enclosure.....
Order 9-119.....
Dated.. ..



SN/Circ.7
8 July 1963

[T2/D/1.047

I M C O

MERCHANT SHIP POSITION-REPORTING SYSTEMS

Attached hereto is a note by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia concerning position-reporting arrangements for ships in the areas off the north and east coasts of Australia and along the Indian Ocean air routes for search and rescue purposes.

Following the decision taken by the Maritime Safety Committee at its sixth session, this note is circulated to all Member Governments for their information.

Encl. 1

Chancery House,
Chancery Lane,
LONDON, W.C.2.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

MERCHANT SHIP POSITION-REPORTING SYSTEMS

In compliance with the request contained in paragraph 2(a) of the I.M.C.O. Circular SN/Circ. 5 dated 4th March, 1963, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia advises that a system of position-reporting by merchant ships was introduced in 1959 as an aid to sea and air search and rescue operations, as it was felt that a prior knowledge of the positions of ships in the areas off the north and east coast of Australia and along the Indian Ocean air routes would be of considerable value in flight planning and in co-ordinating rescue intelligence.

2. Since 1959, therefore, all ships operating in the area enclosed by Melbourne, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Noumea and Thursday Island, with the exception of ships trading between coastal ports, have been requested, by Notice published in the Annual Summary of Commonwealth of Australia Department of Navy Notices to Mariners, to transmit a daily noon report, giving position, course and speed to one of the following Australian Coastal Radio Stations:-

Melbourne Radio.
Sydney Radio.
Brisbane Radio.
Rockhampton Radio.
Townsville Radio.
Cairns Radio.
Thursday Island Radio.
Darwin Radio.

Those ships out of MF range can pass their position on HF to Sydney Radio.

3. Ships operating within a distance of 125 nautical miles on either side of a direct line between Perth - Cocos Island - Mauritius - Johannesburg, are requested to transmit a daily noon report giving position, course and speed.

4. The Coastal Radio Stations, on receipt of ships' positions, immediately forward them to the Department of Civil Aviation Search and Rescue Centres.

5. This system has functioned satisfactorily since its introduction in 1959, the response being very gratifying.

24th May, 1963.